

August 2013

IN THIS EDITION



PAAL plans broomball fundraiser. See page 3.



Local band Honey to play free Music off Main downtown concert Aug. 15. See page 3.

TOWN HALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 20: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

Aug. 27: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Sept. 2: Town offices closed in observance of Labor Day holiday

Sept. 3: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in Building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-Verse 99).



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GARNER UPDATE

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The 50,000-square-foot WakeMed Garner Healthplex, located at 400 U.S. 70 East (across from Agri Supply), will have a full-service, 24/7 emergency department.

WakeMed Healthplex Slated for Aug. 19 Opening

WakeMed opens its seventh full-service, 24/7 emergency department right here in Garner later this month.

The WakeMed Garner Healthplex, located at 400 U.S. 70 East (directly across from Agri Supply), is slated to begin accepting patients on Monday, Aug. 19. The facility will conveniently serve the growing health-care needs of Garner and the surrounding communities.

The 50,000-square-foot healthplex will offer round-the-clock emergency care and laboratory and imaging services. The facility will also house physician offices, including Wake Specialty Physicians-Garner Primary Care, Wake Specialty Physicians-ENT and WakeMed Faculty Physicians-Carolina Cardiology.

In advance of the healthplex's official opening day, WakeMed will hold a dedication and open-house event for the community on Saturday, Aug. 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There will be plenty of activities for kids including a teddy bear clinic in the emergency department. Tours of the new facility will be provided for the community as well. Garner Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc., and the Garner Police Department will have vehicles at the event for visitors to check out.

WakeMed will also have an invitation-only preview event and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Aug. 13, as well as an open house for first responders, EMS, emergency management and WakeMed employees on Friday, Aug. 16.



Look for coverage of the WakeMed ribbon cutting on GTV11 (TWC channel 11, AT&T U-Verse channel 99).



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's 'Great People in Garner' on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).

It's been a lean few years on the growth and development front, but Garner has held its own, and there are signs that things are going to start to pick up.



24/7 emergency department, lab and imaging services and medical office

The most obvious sign is the opening of the WakeMed Garner Healthplex, which will start accepting patients on Aug. 19. The new facility—which has a full-service,

space—represents about \$17 million in new investment in our community and will help spur additional economic development along the U.S. 70 corridor. Come on out for the healthplex's dedication and a community open-house event on Saturday, Aug. 17 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. You'll be impressed by this new facility.

Another very positive sign is the arrival of Data Chambers to Garner. The "data farm" company has moved into a newly renovated warehouse on Garner Station Road and, like WakeMed, is adding millions

of dollars in new investment to our community.

These are two highly positive indicators, but there are others. The Town Council at its Aug. 5 meeting approved two new projects—a residential development with 92 lots and a commercial development at the intersection of Timber Drive and U.S. 70. Taken together, all of these signs point to a bright economic future for Garner.

Ronnie S. Williams

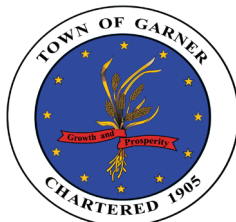
Town Seeking Applicants for Citizen Advisory Boards

Applications are being accepted for a vacancy on Garner's Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee needs to fill one unexpired term vacancy. This committee serves in an advisory capacity with the Town of Garner in planning, coordinating and directing of programs and activities at the Garner Senior Center. Committee members must be eligible to participate in senior activities by being at least 55 years of age. The committee meets bimonthly every third Friday at 9 a.m. at Garner Senior Center (205 E. Garner Road).

The Planning Commission needs a member who resides outside the

Town limits and within Garner's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The commission is an advisory body to the Town Council and makes recommendations regarding land use, zoning and development. Experience in fields such as architecture, planning, development, landscaping or other fields related to urban design or appearance is helpful, although not required. The commission meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall (900 Seventh Ave.).



To download an application form, visit garnernc.gov/Forms/Administration/BoardApplication.pdf. For more information, contact Deputy Town Clerk Kimberly Moffett at (919) 773-4456.

CONNECT

& plug in the future

Sign Up Now for Annual Connect Conference Aug. 8

The Garner Chamber of Commerce is still accepting registrations for its annual Connect and Plug in the Future conference until noon on Wednesday, Aug. 7. The conference, which will feature state Secretary of Transportation Tony Tata and state Secretary of Commerce Sharon Allred Decker as guest speakers, will be held Thursday, Aug. 8 from noon to 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Marquise Ballroom, located at 225 New Fidelity Court. The cost for the whole day, including lunch and dinner, is \$59.

To register, visit business.garner-chamber.com/events/details/connect-conference-2013-34, or call the Chamber at (919) 772-6440.



Public Safety Agencies Take to Ice for PAAL

The Garner Police Athletic/Activities League (PAAL) will be hosting its second annual Broomball Fundraiser at the Garner Polar Ice House (103 New Rand Road) on Saturday, Aug. 24. Doors will open at 1 p.m., and ticket holders (including those purchasing tickets at the door) can take advantage of open skating from 1:15-2:45 p.m.



Broomball games will begin at 3 p.m. and will involve a round-robin tournament including the Garner Police Department, Garner Volunteer Fire-Rescue, Inc., and two other area public safety agencies.

Tickets are \$10 for adults or \$5 for ages 5-12; children under 5 are free. There will also be a silent

auction and 50-50 raffle, and those on hand will have the chance to meet Stormy and the Storm Squad from the Carolina Hurricanes.

All proceeds go to PAAL to support programming for at-risk youth in the Garner area.

Tickets may be purchased at the Garner Police Department's administration offices at 900 Seventh Ave. or at the door the day of the event.

Garner's Carnaval Latino Coming Sept. 21

Come and celebrate our community's diverse Latino cultures at Garner's Carnaval Latino at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffaloe Road) on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is an opportunity for the multicultural community throughout the Triangle to experience the traditional and contemporary varied Latino cultures through food, music, dance and art.

Taste a vast assortment of delicious Latino foods in one location. Then burn off those extra calories by dancing to different Latino musical genres from live bands, and participating in a Zumba party or belly dance led by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department's own instructors. Stroll past unique arts and crafts booths, and also watch performing

arts groups do their traditional dances. There will also be plenty of kid-friendly activities.

This FREE event promises to be fun for the entire family. No alcohol or pets are permitted. For more information, including how your organization can be involved in the event, please call (919) 773-4442.



Learn more about upcoming events at garnernc.gov.

UPCOMING GPAC EVENTS



Towne Players Theater Campers to Perform Disney's 'Mulan Jr.'



The annual summer youth theater camp offered by the Towne Players of Garner and Town of Garner will culminate with a production of Disney's "Mulan Jr." Aug. 8-10 at Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road). There are shows all three days at 8 p.m. with a matinee also on Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. The theater camp has won a prestigious statewide award and was featured in Garner's winning All-America City campaign. For more information, visit towneplayers.org.



Honey Comes to GPAC Back Lawn for Music off Main Aug. 15

Music off Main is back on Aug. 15 from 6-9 p.m. with the band Honey, Garner's very own dance band playing R&B, disco, soul, rock, funk, pop—just about anything that gets people moving. Come on out and dance with Honey on the back lawn of Garner Performing Arts Center at 125 Avery St. All Music off Main shows are free. Bring your chairs or blankets, but coolers are not allowed. Family-friendly food and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information, visit downtowngarner.com.

Down-home Comedian James Gregory Returns to GPAC on Aug. 23

Comedian James Gregory returns to Garner Performing Arts Center on Friday, August 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this show and other upcoming events at GPAC are available at garnerperformingartscenter.com.



Garner PD Adds New Members to Team

With the swearing in of Officer Judy Gelabert Benitez in late June, the Garner Police Department has wrapped up a busy round of welcoming new members to the force.

Officer Benitez, who had worked for the department since March 2010 as a criminal records clerk, was the fourth new officer sworn in over a span of several weeks.



Officer Judy Benitez

In May, the Police Department held a swearing-in ceremony for three other new officers – Andre “Charon”

Guffey, John Michael Hardin and Josephine Brehona (“Bre”) Prince.

“We are pleased to have Bre, Charon, John and Judy join the sworn ranks of the Garner Police Department,” Chief Brandon Zuidema said. “They each bring unique experience and have already proven to be assets to the department and to the citizens of Garner.”



(From left) Officer Prince, Chief Brandon Zuidema and Officers Guffey and Hardin pose together after the new officers’ swearing-in ceremony.

Officer Benitez received her first experience working in the criminal justice field when she served as a telecommunicator/dispatcher for the Raleigh Emergency Communications Center. During her three years with the Garner Police Department, she has completed her associate’s degree and graduated from the basic law enforcement training program at Wake Technical Community College.

Officer Guffey graduated from the basic law enforcement training program at Guilford Technical Community College and was sworn in as a deputy sheriff in Guilford County in 2005.

Officer Hardin was originally hired by the Winston-Salem Police Department and attended the department’s basic training program. After working there for three years, he transferred to the New Bern Police Department and worked for that force for eight years. His last assignment there was as a detective.

Officer Prince completed the basic law enforcement training program at Wilson Community College. Following her graduation, she went on to work for the Smithfield Police Department as a sworn officer for more than two years.

Each of the four positions recently filled became available through attrition. The Garner Police Department currently has 64 sworn officers.

More All-America City Kudos for Garner

Members of Garner’s All-America City delegation—(from left) Rick Mercier, Kim Moffett, John Hodges, Denise Nowell, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Council Member Kathy Behringer and Sonya Shaw—wait on July 23 for the state House of Representatives to consider a resolution honoring Garner, Dunn and Thomasville for their recent All-America City designations. The resolution, which passed unanimously, was amended to honor only Garner and Dunn. Thomasville’s All-America City delegates were unable to attend the House session that day and will be recognized at a later date.




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